

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 SS-20 PM-07 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 SPC-03 L-03 ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7482

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCLANT

USNMR SHAPE

USMISSION USNATO

SAFUSI

CSAF

JCS WASHDC

USDEL MC BRUSSELS

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCO AFNORTH KOLSAS

S E C R E T OSLO 4460

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MARR PFOR NO US

SUBJ: COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES IN NORWAY

REF: (A) STATE 5892(NOTAL) (B) OSLO 4424(NOTAL)

(C) OSLO 3871(181614Z OCT 73) (D) JCS 291804Z SEP 73

BEGIN SUMMARY. DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL REACTS
FAVORABLY TO CONCEPT OF COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES
IN NORWAY BUT IS UNPREPARED TO GIVE FORMAL ASSENT TO
OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL HE HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY
TO CONSULT THE PRIME MINISTER. I THEREFORE THINK IT

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WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TO SEEK OUT

FOSTERVOLL IN BRUSSELS FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF RAISING COB'S. IF, ON OTHER HAND, THE SECRETARY IS MEETING WITH FOSTERVOLL ON OTHER MATTERS, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO INDICATE OUR INTEREST IN HEARING NORWEGIAN RESPONSE ON EARLY OCCASION. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING CALL ON DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL THIS MORNING, I BROUGHT UP OUR INTEREST IN OPENING NEGOTIATIONS FOR USE OF EIGHT NORWEGIAN BASES AS COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES (COB'S). THE MINISTER IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED THAT HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON SUBJECT IN GENERAL TERMS AND SAID CONCEPT SEEMED DESIRABLE, AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT.

2. FOSTERVOLL ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD BEEN AWARE OF INTEREST IN COB'S AS REFLECTED BY BASE SURVEY DURING HIS PREVIOUS TERM AS DEFENSE MINISTER. WHEN I MENTIONED THAT WE HAD NOT PROPOSED OPENING NEGOTIATIONS LAST YEAR OUT OF DEFERENCE TO NORWEGIAN DOMESTIC SITUATION (COMMON MARKET REFERENDUM AND ELECTIONS), HE INTERJECTED THAT HE WAS MOST GRATEFUL. I CONTINUED THAT IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THERE WERE NO POLITICAL OBSTACLES TO OPENING NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME, BUT THAT I WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT HE SHARED THAT JUDGEMENT.

3. THE MINISTER SAID THAT, BEFORE GIVING ME A DEFINITE ANSWER, HE WOULD WANT TO CONSULT THE CABINET'S COMMISSION ON SECURITY POLICY (A GROUP COMPOSED OF THOSE MINISTERS HAVING RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE FIELD OF NATIONAL SECURITY). ON FURTHER REFLECTION HE SAID THAT MIGHT TAKE TOO LONG, AS IT WAS HARD TO CONVENE THE COMMISSION, BUT THAT AT A MINIMUM HE WOULD NEED TO CONSULT PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI WHICH HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO BEFORE HIS RETURN FROM THE EUROGROUP AND DPC MEETINGS.

4. FOSTERVOLL INDICATED ONLY TWO CONCERNS WITH THE PROPOSAL:

A. FIRST, HE ASKED WHAT WE WOULD EXPECT OF NORWEGIANS IN WAY OF PEACETIME AIRFIELD DEFENSE FOR THE BASES TO BE USED. I SAID THIS WOULD BE A QUESTION TO BE TREATED DURING SECRET

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NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THAT MY UNDERSTANDING ON BASIS OF BRIEFINGS I HAD RECEIVED WAS THAT PROPOSAL WAS ESSENTIALLY COST-FREE FOR BOTH SIDES, WITH US PROVIDING PRESTOCKED WRM'S WHICH NORWAY WOULD PROTECT WITH EXISTING GUARD SERVICES. THIS SUGGESTED, I SAID, THAT US WOULD NOT BE EXPECTING MORE BASE DEFENSE THAN NORWAY ALREADY PLANNING. THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM, FOSTERVOLL SAID, IS THAT NORWAY IS ONLY PLANNING DEFENSES (AT A COST OF 440 MILLION KRONER)

FOR HALF THE BASES THE US IS PROPOSING TO USE; TO DEFEND THE OTHERS WOULD DOUBLE THE COST.

B. THE SECOND CONCERN MENTIONED BY FOSTERVOLL HAD TO DO WITH PRESERVING NORWEGIAN BASE POLICY (I.E., NO FOREIGN FORCES IN NORWAY IN PEACETIME). HE SAID ONE MUST BE PREPARED FOR POSSIBILITY THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BECOME PUBLIC AND THAT, WHILE WHAT HE KNEW OF PROPOSAL INDICATED US HAD FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT NORWEGIAN CONCERNS ON THIS SCORE, THIS WAS ONE ASPECT HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK WITH BRATTELI. I OFFERED SERVICES OF EMBASSY IN OBTAINING WHATEVER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HE MIGHT NEED, AND HE PROMISED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH ME AS SOON AS HE HAD CONSULTED BRATTELI, PROBABLY NEXT WEEK.

5. COMMENT. FOSTERVOLL'S RESPONSE WAS IN GENERAL QUITE POSITIVE, AND THE TWO QUESTIONS HE RAISED DID NOT SEEM SERIOUSLY TO BOTHER HIM. BECAUSE HE IS NOT YET PREPARED TO GIVE US AN ANSWER, HOWEVER, I DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER ARRANGE A BILATERAL MEETING WITH HIM IN BRUSSELS FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF PROPOSING COB NEGOTIATIONS. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SECRETARY IS SEEING FOSTERVOLL ON OTHER MATTERS I THINK IT WOULD BE QUITE HELPFUL FOR HIM TO ALLUDE TO TODAY'S CONVERSATION AND INDICATE OUR INTEREST IN OBTAINING THE NORWEGIAN REACTION ON TIMING FOR OPENING NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS HE HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE WHATEVER ADDITIONAL SOUNDINGS HE THINKS NECESSARY.
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